

Join us as we live out "Real Faith for Real Life" together!



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Weekly E-News

April 30, 2020

Your Weekly News & Updates

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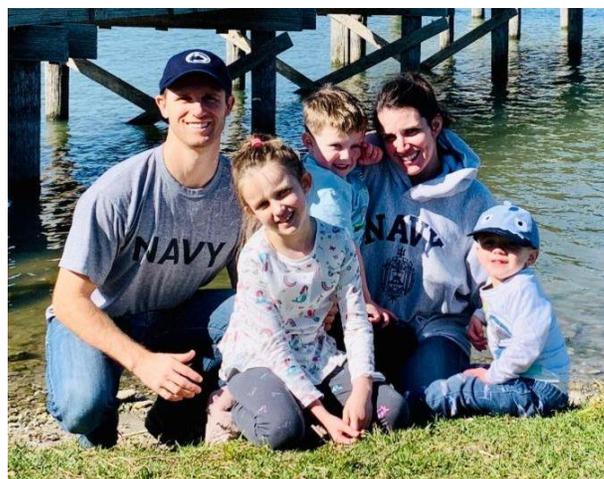
Testimony from the Laird Family



Worshipping online at home with our families is new to all of us. So we're all learning new ways to worship. We have heard some amazing stories of what that looks like for some of our families.

Here is what the Laird family, Jeff & Lauren and their children Emma, Alex and Ben have done to make their Sunday worship time special. This is from Lauren:

"As we prepared to start the service the first Sunday, Emma wanted to carry the cross, so of course the boys wanted to as well. We gave Alex a real Bible and Ben the kids Bible. The routine is, they carry them up to the TV. Jeff and I bow at them and then the kids bow as they place them in front of the TV. At that point, we sit together as a family and start the service. They don't leave quite as early as they normally do for children's chapel. We keep them through the Gospel. Then we press pause. We talk about what Fr. John read and then we have Emma read the kids Bible version. Sometimes, they act it out. Then we send them with their printouts from Mrs. Sally and they do as much as they feel like doing. Then they color or play until we call them back. Before the service ends we hit pause and sit as a family to have communion. I make unleavened bread and we have some wine. The kids enjoy this part. Then we listen to the last song and finish the service.



Jeff & Lauren, Emma, Alex and Ben Laird

We have days where it goes perfectly, and days where the kids have a hard time being still. On those days, we let the boys go to the playroom or stay there. Emma is much more interested in what is going on and since she can read, she likes to read along with any words on the screen."

We would love to hear from you about how your family is experiencing your worship time together. Please send your stories to Judy at judy@stmarksgcc.com.

The recording of this Sunday's (5/3) service will be sent out via the ENews Saturday evening. It will also be posted on our St. Mark's Episcopal Church and Kids in Christ Facebook pages and in our St. Mark's Facebook Group before 9 am Sunday morning.

**THANK YOU to ALL who are working to keep us
worshiping our Lord together.**

Fr. John's Perspective on How Month Two of the Pandemic Ended



As we end April, our second month in the pandemic, I have a message of encouragement for you. Against a backdrop of financial uncertainty, Christians are walking by faith. In the last two months, income from those who turned in commitment cards for 2020 has remained on budget. That's great news. **KEEP IT UP!**

Yes, it's true: non-pledged giving is below budget, and other giving is also down because we aren't gathering. We are behind in what we planned to give to our Outreach Partners and to the Diocese. But people *are* giving. People want the Lord's Church to succeed, for ministry to continue,

for the Gospel to continue to be made known. It's important to realize this is happening even when we aren't gathering.

When you remember that the Lord is in control, you are bringing faith to life. We *know* God is in control, He raised Jesus from the dead. We have a perspective born out of the grace-centered, mercy-offering relationship with Jesus our Lord. Those who place their trust in Him *are* blessed.

As Jeremiah wrote, "They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves are green, and they never stop bearing fruit." (Jeremiah 17:8)

KEEP IT UP!

Fr. John

Zoom Coffee Fellowship 9:00 am Sunday, May 3

Missing the fellowship of St. Mark's? Others are, too. Last week we tested the waters of a virtual Coffee Hour. It was fun. We'd like to do it again. So please join us this Sunday, May 3, at 9:00 am.

The link to the Zoom meeting and password will be sent out with the links to the service recording and PDF.

Some of you may be new to Zoom. It's not hard.

First, be sure your computer has a microphone and camera. Then click on the link. You will be prompted to allow Zoom to upload or to open on your computer. This takes a few seconds. Then click on the colored button allowing Zoom to use your computer's Audio. Then move your cursor to the bottom of the page where you'll see a button with an icon of a camera. Click on it, and you're ready to go!



In review, 1) click on the link, 2) give Zoom permission to load or open, 3) allow it to use your computer's Audio function, and 4) allow it to use your computer's camera.

Now here are some Rules of Etiquette when you're on a Zoom call.

People can see you. So be aware of what you are revealing.

If you move in front of your camera, viewers will see you, as if you were walking around the sanctuary during the service.

If you need to get up and move around, turn off your visual feed and mute yourself. When you turn off your camera and mute yourself, it tells everyone that you are still part of the meeting but you may have had to step away for a minute. You are not gone and you will be back in the meeting shortly.

If you actually do leave the meeting and aren't coming back, please click on 'leave meeting' and your screen will no longer show up in the feed and everyone will know that you have left. (If we still see your screen, we will assume that you are still listening.)

Beware of sound.

- Please keep yourself muted when not speaking or in an active conversation. This helps to keep the noise down from incidental sounds..for example, the rustling of papers and blankets or that of dogs barking or kids playing, or conversations elsewhere in your home.
- When you want to speak, hold down the space bar or "unmute" your microphone button.
- Give others a chance to finish their words and then, when appropriate, come back into the conversation.

Mute all.

- The 'Host' of the meeting can 'mute all.' If he or she does, you will not be able to unmute yourself. The Host has to do it. If you get muted, the Host is just making sure that the sound signal is coming through to everyone clearly and that no other signals are trying to compete for sound. You can raise your hand if you want to get the Host's attention.

Zoom is Free. Get to know Zoom software and how it works.

This Week with Fr. John



Fr. John is offering opportunities to join him, either through a Facebook Live or Zoom meeting to share a little time together. Here's the schedule:

TONIGHT: Thursday 4/30, 7 pm--Zoom Vestry Bible Study
1 Corinthians, Chapter 3

Friday May 1, 9 am-----FaceBook Live with Adults
Sunday, May 3, 5 pm----- Zoom with Youth
Monday, May 4, 9 am-----FB Live with Children
Wednesday, May 6, 5 pm-----Zoom with Parents

Mark you calendars!

Need Your Help

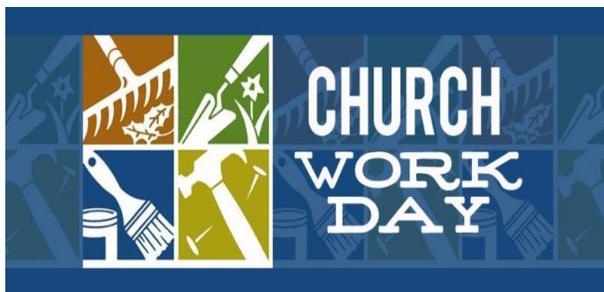
Doug Wayland has a friend who is in need of a gently used full size mattress and box spring set. He has a bed frame and is willing to pay for it since he just received his stimulus check. Of course, he would be grateful if it were donated. Please contact Doug at dwayland@stx.rr.com if you are able to help with this need.

THANK YOU!



Campus Work Evenings Scheduled in May

Our junior warden, Adam Remlinger has scheduled two work evenings in May since it will be cooler in the evenings. He would like to tackle work that is outside--palm trimming and cleaning in the King's Forest.



Put These Two Work Days on Your Calendar:

**Wednesday, 5/6
7:00 pm-8:30 pm**

Wednesday, 5/20

7:00 pm-8:30 pm

It's me, it's me... Oh, Lord.

If you have a need or concern, please don't hesitate to contact Fr. John or Judy on their cell phones. Fr. John's number is (361) 443-4916 and Judy's is (361) 425-8249. We are happy to take any emergency call at any time. For other requests, we appreciate your calls being made during normal business hours.



Our prayer chain is continuing to pray for any requests that come into the office. You can contact Judy at judy@stmarksc.com or call her if you have a prayer need. This group has been praying for everyone in our congregation as well as your families.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONTINUE THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ST. MARK'S CHURCH!

Even though we are not able to congregate as we normally do, the church still has many expenses. We urge you to give out of faith, thanksgiving, and generosity, and never out of guilt. If you are blessed to be able to give, here are the four ways to do that:

- Online through our website. There is a blue "Giving" button at the bottom of each page. Just click on that and it will take
- you to our online EGiving. You will need to set up a user profile and then you can set up a one-time gift or recurring gifts. You can also give through the "Donate to St. Mark's" link at the bottom of this ENews.
- Through your cell phone using our app, Give+Plus. To get the app, go to the app store and search for "Give+Plus". The icon background is white, the word "Give" is gray and the "+Plus" is a mustard color. Download the app and follow the prompts. You can use it to set up a one-time or recurring gifts.
- Mail in your check to: St. Mark's Church, 2727 Airline Rd, CC, TX 78414. We have a drop-in mailbox that is locked at all times. We will be checking the mail every day, so your check will be secure.
- Drop your check off at the church. Just put it in the locked mailbox to left of the red door at the fellowship hall.



THANK YOU for helping spread the Kingdom through your continuing support of St. Mark's Church.

Calendar

May 3 - Sunday

9:00 am - Coffee Fellowship--Online--Zoom Meeting

10:00 am -Morning Prayer Service--Online--Facebook Page

May 5 - Tuesday

7:00 pm - Bible Study and Prayer Group--Online--Zoom Meeting

May 6 - Wednesday

12:00 pm - Elders Meeting--Online--Zoom Meeting

7:00 pm - Work Evening--Outside Property

May 7 - Thursday

6:45 am - Elders Prayer Group--Online--Zoom Meeting

Helpful Links

Below you will find several links to websites or Facebook Pages that you might find helpful.

[St. Mark's Church Website](#)

[Donate to St. Mark's Church](#)

[St. Mark's Church Facebook](#)

[St. Mark's Youth Ministry Facebook](#)

[St. Mark's Children's Ministry Facebook](#)

[EMC2 Facebook](#)

[Diocese of West Texas Website](#)

[Diocesan Newsletter and Reflection Magazine](#)

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